

WAYSIDE NOTES

From Tuape to Opedepe and all
Around a Rich and Interesting
Region.

OPEDEPE, SONORA.

December 12, 1903.

Monday morning the 7th of the month I started from Tuape about the middle of the forenoon, after a very pleasant visit with Mr. Chism and Doctor Alderman.

My route led down the San Miguel river. I jogged along leisurely, because the day's journey ahead was not long. I passed Rodeo, Meresechie and San Juan, each but a short distance more than a league apart.

At one place I saw a number of women and girls carrying water from a spring which was upon the other side of the river. The engraving is a good representation.

At the latter place I turned away from the river to the westward, and after traveling a couple of miles reached the San Ricardo camp.

There I found Mr. George Charters, general manager for the American-Mexican Mining & Development Co., which is now operating that rich and famous mine; Mr. Jos. de Lusignan, of Nogales, who is installing and regulating the machinery; Mr. Jerry Leahy, a well known millman who is in charge of the mill; and Mr. Ed. Williams, blacksmith and machinist. Mr. George Phillips, the superintendent, had gone to Nogales after his family. He returned with them Wednesday.

During the afternoon I was shown over the mill and property by Mr. Charters. It is certainly a great property, and the American-Mexican Mining & Development Company, of Canton, Ohio, which owns and is operating it, have a richly paying enterprise through many years.

The machinery for a 20-stamp mill has been ordered, and five stamps are now set up and in operation. The first work had been done two or three days before my arrival, and everything was being tested and lined up for regular running. The water from the mine is sufficient to run the five stamps. To run more they will pump water from the San Miguel river, one mile and a quarter away. As soon as possible a pipe line and pumping station will be installed, when there will be an abundant supply of water to run a mill of any capacity, and then the additional fifteen stamps will be put into the mill.

The American-Mexican Mining & Development Company have at San Ricardo seven fine properties, embracing about sixty *pertenencias* of ground, which includes seven gold bearing ledges. They are *antiguas*, and show ancient workings that go back into the days of the Spanish occupation. In recent years some of them have been also successfully worked by the old San Ricardo Company, which operated a 20-stamp mill, long since gone to ruin, and produced more than a million dollars in bullion within a very short time. But all that and

the causes for suspension, while very interesting, together with a full description of the property, would take too much space for these running notes, and will have to be reserved for a special article. Suffice it to say here that upon the day of my arrival at the camp, I was shown more ore in one of the seven mines, ready for stoping, developed by the present company, than has been taken out from the extensive former workings, both *antigua* and more recent, that I was also shown through. Judge Thomas F. Turner of Canton, Ohio, well known in Nogales, is vice-president of the American-Mexican Mining & Development Company.

recently purchased from Don Ricardo Johnson by Victor Aguilar and associates of Hermosillo, upon which work is now being done under direction of Mr. Arturo Cubillas; and the "Socorro" formerly owned by the late John A. Gowan of Nogales, and by his estate sold to Mr. F. G. Wilson, who is now at the property directing operations. Some of the other properties, I am told, are about to change hands and be brought again into active operation.

Poza station, on the line of the Sonora Railway, is the point where the office of this great region is distributed; and with the growth of the country which will ensue with

H. Dempsey and John Henderson Jr. Mr. Dempsey is well known in Southern Arizona and Sonora. He was long in charge of the Prietas stores. He is assayer for the Porvenir de Sonora Mining Company, which owns and operates the "Mina del Oro." Mr. Harry Alderman is also at the camp, the foreman of the mine.

The Porvenir de Sonora Company includes several Nogales gentlemen. John Henderson is president and general manager; Aurelio Sandoval, treasurer; and Judson A. Elliott, secretary.

The "Mina del Oro" includes a number of rich gold ledges, in granite. Upon one of them there is a shaft 160 feet deep, and upon another, one about 100 feet down. From the bottom of the deeper shaft a cross cut has opened a fine body of ore in a parallel ledge.

There is a Huntington mill in operation upon the property. Scarcity of water precludes its continual operation. The company is arranging to establish a pumping plant at Saucedo, a mile and a half distant, and lay a pipe line to the mine which will assure an abundance of water for all purposes.

The property is *antigua*, there being on all sides old workings from which ores were taken and reduced in *arrastras*, the remains of two of which are close to the present mill site, right at the mine.

Wednesday morning young John Henderson saddled a horse and accompanied me to the Amarillas and Socorro mines, the first five, the other eight miles away. This including the San Ricardo, the Billy Bryan, the Sara, and the San Geronimo is the Alameda region. The formation is granite, and the entire region for miles seems a veritable network of veins and ledges. One can travel hardly 500 yards without encountering the croppings of good, strong veins, most of them showing rock that has every appearance of being good. In fact I am informed that surface assays from most any of them yield values. Depth would probably develop good, paying gold and silver ores. It strikes the casual observer that this is a great region for prospect and development work.

About ten o'clock we reached the Amarillas camp, and were cordially welcomed by Mr. Arturo G. Cubillas, the superintendent, who showed me down into the mine and over the surface.

The property has been recently taken over by a company of Hermosillo gentlemen formed by Mr. Victor Aguilar and R. P. Cubillas, in conjunction with the brother of the latter, who is in charge. The vendor, Mr. Ricardo Johnson retained a quarter interest of the work. There are three denouncements, viz: the "Rubeña," eight *pertenencias*; the "Aranguel," eight, and the "Cumbre de Amarillas," six. A strong ledge runs the entire length of the three denouncements, (about a mile and a half) and it is said that the ledge can be traced all the way to



WATER CARRIER ON THE SAN MIGUEL RIVER, SONORA.

Adjacent to the San Ricardo mine is the Dos Cabezas, a very promising gold property, owned by Don Ramon Corral, formerly governor of Sonora, now Ministro de Gobernacion (Secretary of Interior) in the cabinet of President Diaz.

San Ricardo is in the Ures district and is the eastern-most camp in a country known as the Alameda region, which extends some ten miles to the westward, and is said to include thirty-six valuable properties, all of which have fine records as producers of gold or silver, or both metals. They include the "San Geronimo," which has been recently purchased by a gentleman from the East named Stuart, who is preparing for the reopening of the mine; "Mina del Oro" the property of the Porvenir de Sonora Mining Company, of which Mr. John Henderson of Nogales, is general manager; the "Amarillas,"

so many gold properties in active operation, it will become an important point. Mr. Julio Araiza, is the forwarding agent at that point, and attends to the business there of all the companies operating in this region and all the merchants in business here.

Tuesday afternoon I rode across the trail to the Oro mine, Mr. Charters kindly sending a guide with me. The trail led across two high mountain ridges, and is very rough and rocky. The distance is about five miles, but progress was necessarily so slow that we were about three hours in covering it.

En route we passed the San Geronimo, an *antigua* property to which attention will now be paid. Extensive workings are in evidence, and all indications point to the probability that those who have taken it in hand will be richly rewarded.

At the Oro camp I found Mr. W.